



The

The GARzette

The Official Newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
December 2019 <http://www.gars.org/> Volume 28, Issue 12



2019 GARS Ham of the Year



David Adcock, KA4KKF

Message from the President

2019 is coming to a close and GARS has had a very special year. We are an ARRL Special Service Club for a many good reasons. Our membership has continued to grow reaching 340 members as of the close of 2019. Looking back on the year, there were many activities and events which brought new members into the club.

2019 started with another very popular Techfest which remains unique among Amateur Radio activities. When the idea for Techfest was born many years ago, it has continued to showcase the many sides of Amateur Radio, provide informative forums, activities to introduce youth to radio and provide a gathering place to see old friends, meet new contacts face to face and enjoy a tasty bowl of chili.

We were not able to participate in Winter Field Day this year with the overlapping scheduling of Techfest, but we were on the air for the Georgia QSO Party and made many contacts

Ralph and I have enjoyed another year of Hamcrams with two Technician classes and one General class. We added around 30 new Hams with some joining GARS to learn more. We've always said getting your license is like getting your "Learner's Permit". Joining a club or ARES group afterwards provided opportunities to explore, learn and grow in Amateur Radio.

The Hamcrams would not be as successful without the participation of the GARS VE Team who offers the testing at the end of the Hamcrams. The VE Team also offers license testing sessions each month during the year and provides testing at Techfest and the Stone Mountain Hamfest.

2019 is a year that our successful Workshop series on the third Tuesday of every month explored many interesting topics and attendance and interest continued to grow. With hands-on learning and exploring interesting topics, we attracted a lot of interest even outside the club membership. A lot of credit goes to Dave, W4DTR, for creating the Workshop and bringing interesting topics to each monthly meeting.

We can't forget Field Day. We couldn't find a better location than the Harbins Park Pavilion to setup and operate eight stations, make several thousand contacts and chat with old friends. We owe a lot to the person who has organized Field Day for as long as I can remember, David, KA4KKF. By the way, if you missed the Holiday Party, David



"We have a lot to look forward to in 2020 and we hope all our members will be a part of the fun."

Adcock, KA4KKF) was the very deserving recipient of the 2019 GARS Ham of the Year award.

Looking back on 2019, these are just a few of the activities and services to the Amateur Radio community offered by GARS. That's what a Special Service Club does. We have a lot to look forward to in 2020 and we hope all our members will be a part of the fun.

I wish everyone a very joyous holiday season and a Happy New Year for 2020. If you haven't put you request in to Santa for that new radio, it's not too late!

73,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Adams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a distinct "J" at the beginning.

**WB4QDX,
Club
President**

"It is not the class of license the Amateur holds, but the class of the Amateur that holds the license."

[Author Unknown]



GARS December Meeting and Workshop

Holiday Party

Saturday, December 7, 2019 6:30 PM

Dinner Begins at 7:00 PM

*Games from 8:00 until 8:40, then short meeting and Ham of the Year Award, Wrap Up 2019
(No Workshop in December)*

Sports Aviation Complex—Hangar 1

690 Airport Road

Lawrenceville, GA 30045

NOTE: Location Entrance to the Hangar has changed! See below link for more details!

[Updated Entrance Directions to EAA Hangar](#)

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GARS Communications

2 Meter Repeaters

147.075(+) MHz Tone 82.5
147.255(+) MHz Tone 107.2

6 Meter Repeater

53.110 (-1 MHz) No Tone
(Offline for Maintenance)

1.25 Meter Repeater

224.580(-) MHz Tone 100.0,
1.6 MHz Offset

Other Resources:

APRS
144.390 -- 1200 Baud
W4GR

70 Cm Repeaters

444.525(+) MHz Tone 82.5
442.100(+) MHz Tone 100
442.325(+) MHz Tone 100

D-STAR
WD4STR
145.060 + (1.4 MHz)
440.550 + (5 MHz)

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back of the
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The *GARzette* is the official monthly newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the Amateur Radio art.

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If possible, bring your articles to the monthly meeting in Microsoft Word or rich text (.rtf) or text or HTML format or by e-mail to editor@gars.org. Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted via e-mail to the same address. Alternate means of submittal can be arranged when necessary.

In keeping with the Amateur Radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of The *GARzette* articles by other Amateur Radio club newsletters provided that proper credit is given to the individual author and *The GARzette*.

The GARzette is published each month with the assistance of Norm Schklar, WA4Z XV who prints copies for distribution at meetings, etc. and Dave Bruse, W4DTR, who distributes the news letter electronically.

Deadline for submissions is the 28th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.

For additional information view our Website at: <http://www.gars.org>

Newsletter Editor: editor@gars.org Bill Eggers—WB2RIS 470-238-9603

GARS Happenings

20 Years ago in the December 1999 GARzette:

- This month's "On The Air" by Karl Phillips, K4GZZ, features Gordon Anthony, KF4OKA;
- ARES support is requested for a Y2K net;
- The 3rd annual TechFest (January 29, 2000) is just around the corner;
- Karl K4GZZ discusses how he got interested in amateur radio;
- In "Home, Home on Duh Range", An anonymous submitter shows what hams hear in certain popular songs;
- ARRL reports the vast majority of hams are not ready for the FCC Universal Licensing System (ULS, see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Universal_Licensing_System);
- Amateur Radio restructuring details possible by year end (see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amateur_radio_licensing_in_the_United_States#Restructuring_in_2000 and [CORES registration numbers](#)).

You can always browse the GARzette archive at <http://www.gars.org/newsletters>

73, *Bill*, WB2RIS, GARzette Editor



Technician HamCram Results

We had a great exam session at our Technician Ham Cram Class on November 16 and 23. 8 out of 9 applicants passed! Congratulations to John, WB4QDX and Ralph, KJ4CNC for another job WELL DONE!!!

Exam session results:

- 8 new Technician

Special thanks to the Volunteer Examiners who made this exam session possible:

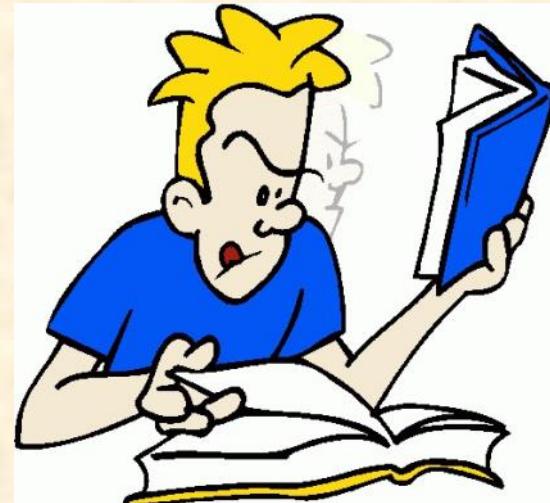
- John, WB4QDX
- Ralph, KJ4CNC
- Sid, N4NQ
- Bill, WR1TR
- Richard, KM4SWL
- Chuck, KK4TKJ (Co-CVE)
- Russell, AB4QQ
- Bob, K4CQO
- Donna, KM4FMW
- Frank, KV4SP

Thanks & 73,

Dave Bruse, W4DTR (CVE)

GARS VE Team Leader

Email: exams@gars.org



GARS HELP WANTED

- GARzette Editor — Looking for someone to become the next GARzette Editor, starting off as a GARzette Committee member / Assistant Editor. Experience with Microsoft Publisher would be nice, but any experience with Microsoft Office products is helpful. Most of the content is supplied by others, but occasionally you may wish to write content, especially in your area of expertise. If you are interested, please contact Bill Eggers, WB2RIS at editor@gars.org.

If you're interested in volunteering for one of these positions, please contact one of the GARS Officers. Supporting GARS activities is an important part of what we do and help from club members is needed.

[PS— Articles to publish in the GARzette, either written by GARS members or published elsewhere, are always welcome. —Ed.]

TechFest / In Other News

TechFest 2020

ARRL-sanctioned *hamfest* and a *show-and-tell* of the various facets of *amateur radio* and *Chili Cookoff*



It's all free, no entry fee and a free lunch!

TechFest will be held JANUARY 18, 2020

Location: Gwinnett Medical Center's Resource Center
665 Duluth Highway (GA-120), Lawrenceville, GA 30046

For more info, visit www.techfest.info.

Doors open at 9:00am Raffle and last door prize drawing around 1:30.

Amateur Radio Exams from 9:00am to 11:00am (www.gars.org/exams for fees and details)

ARRL Events App Will Support Orlando Hamcation Attendees

[Orlando HamCation®](#) 2020 visitors in February will be able to navigate the convention with ARRL's free mobile event app, ARRL Events. First introduced for the Dayton Hamvention® in May 2019 (<https://hamvention.org/>), the app received extremely positive reviews from users. ARRL has partnered with Orlando HamCation and Dayton Hamvention to re-introduce the app for these 2020 events.



"The user-friendly event app will help convention-goers find exhibits and forums, follow prize drawings, and connect with other attendees," said ARRL Convention and Event Coordinator Eric Casey, KC2ERC, who has been working with Orlando HamCation Committee members to help ready the app for the 2020 event. "Users will also enjoy notification of important program updates."

The free ARRL Events app will be available in late December for both Apple iOS and Android devices. A web-browser version, optimized for nearly any browser or other mobile device type, will also be available. Orlando Hamcation 2020 takes place February 7 – 9 and has been sanctioned as the 2020 ARRL Northern Florida Section Convention. Hosted annually by the Orlando Amateur Radio Club, HamCation is one of the largest annual amateur radio gatherings in the US.

Visit the HamCation website (<https://www.hamcation.com/hamcation-tickets>) to purchase tickets.

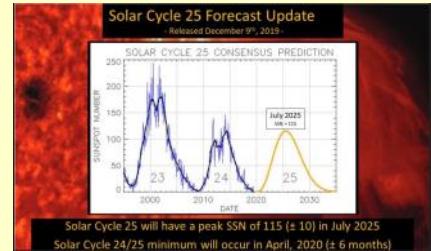
Source: <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-events-app-will-support-orlando-hamcation-attendees>

In Other News (cont'd)

NOAA/NASA Panel Concurs that Solar Cycle 25 will Peak in July 2025

The NOAA/NASA-co-chaired international Solar Cycle Prediction Panel has released its [latest forecast](#) for to forecast Solar Cycle 25. The panel's consensus calls for a peak in July 2025 (± 8 months), with a smoothed sunspot number of 115. The panel agreed that Cycle 25 will be of average intensity and similar to Cycle 24. The panel additionally concurred that the solar minimum between Cycles 24 and 25 will occur in April 2020 (± 6 months). If the solar minimum prediction is correct, this would make Solar Cycle 24 the seventh longest on record at 11.4 years. In its preliminary forecast released last April, the scientists on the panel forecast that Solar Cycle 25 would likely be weak, much like the current Cycle 24.

“Solar Cycle 25 may have a slow start, but is anticipated to peak with solar maximum occurring between 2023 and 2026, and a sunspot range of 95 to 130. This is well below the average number of sunspots,” the panel said last spring, adding with “high confidence” that Cycle 25 “should break the trend of weakening solar activity seen over the past four cycles.” The panel said the expectation that Cycle 25 would be comparable in size to Cycle 24 suggests that the steady decline in solar cycle amplitude seen from Cycle 21 through Cycle 24 has ended and that there is no indication of an approaching “Maunder-type” minimum. Cycle 24 peaked in April 2014 with an average sunspot number of 82.



The Solar Cycle Prediction Panel forecasts the number of sunspots expected for solar maximum, along with the timing of the peak and minimum solar activity levels for the cycle. It is comprised of scientists representing NOAA, NASA, the International Space Environment Services, and other US and international scientists.

Source: <http://www.arrl.org/news/noaa-nasa-panel-concurs-that-solar-cycle-25-will-peak-in-july-2025>

YOTA Month Expanding into the Americas

December is Youth on the Air (YOTA) Month, when stations operated by young radio amateurs around the world will get on the air to celebrate youth in amateur radio. [YOTA Month](#) began a few years ago in International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 1, and the concept has now taken root in the Americas as [YOTA Month in the Americas](#).

During YOTA Month, radio amateurs aged 25 and younger will be on the air as special event stations during December on various bands and modes. In the US, look for K8Y, K8O, K8T, and K8A. Elsewhere in the Americas, VE7YOTA will be on the air from Canada. XR2YOTA in Chile has been added to the list of youth stations in the Americas for YOTA Month. Young hams in other countries may also join in. Listen for other YOTA Month stations with “YOTA” suffixes.



For more information about YOTA in the Americas, contact YOTA Month in the Americas Coordinator [Bryant Rascoll, KG5HVO](#), or YOTA in the Americas Camp Director [Neil Rapp, WB9VPG](#).

Participants earn certificates by working the various YOTA-suffix stations on the air throughout December. Not a contest, the event is aimed at getting as many youngsters on air from as many countries as possible. The event takes place from 0000 UTC on December 1 until 2359 UTC on December 31.

Other special call signs planning to be on the air include 5B19YOTA, 7X2YOTA, 7X3YOTA, 9A19YOTA, DH0YOTA, E71YOTA, EF4YOTA, EG2YOTA, EI0YOTA, EM5YOTA, EM6YOTA, ET3YOTA, GB19YOTA, HA6YOTA, HB9YOTA, HG0YOTA, II4YOTA, II8YOTA, LY5YOTA, OH2YOTA, OL19YOTA, ON4YOTA, PA6YOTA, PD6YOTA, SH9YOTA, TC19YOTA, TC3YOTA, TM19YOTA, YO0YOTA, YT19YOTA, ZL6YOTA and ZS9YOTA.

Most stations will put their logs on LoTW with paper cards available through Club Log OQRS. QSL direct via M0SDV.—*Thanks to YOTA and YOTA in the Americas*

Source: <http://www.arrl.org/news/yota-month-expanding-into-the-americas>

In Other News (cont'd)

ARRL Self-Guided Emergency Communication Course EC-001-S is Now Available On Demand

ARRL's EC-001-S online "Introduction to Emergency Communication" course is now available to students in an on-demand format, allowing students to register for the course and begin work at any time. This course is designed to provide basic knowledge and tools for any emergency communications volunteer.

In response to the great course demand and to expand access to EC-001, ARRL developed a self-guided version of the course, EC-001-S, which launched in June. This version of the course is designed for those who prefer to work independently and who do not need guidance from an online mentor. EC-001-S was previously offered only during specific sessions along with the traditional mentored version. The course opened for general enrollment on November 6.



Visit the ARRL Online Course Registration page for more information and to register (<http://www.arrl.org/online-course-registration>).

Source: <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-self-guided-emergency-communication-course-ec-001-s-is-now-available-on-demand>

More than 1 Million Contacts Logged during ARRL Field Day 2019

ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE, reports that nearly 1.1 million contacts were made during the 2019 ARRL Field Day — the most popular operating event in North America. Bourque reported the 2019 ARRL Field Day results, which are available starting on page 64 of the digital edition of the December 2019 issue of QST. Bourque says in his article that more than 36,000 radio amateurs took part in ARRL Field Day 2019 across all 83 ARRL/Radio Amateurs of Canada sections, up slightly from the 35,250 reported last year. The total number of contacts was down by about 7% from 2018's 1.18 million contacts.



"This year, 3,113 entries were received from local clubs and emergency operations centers (EOCs), as well as individual portable, mobile, and home stations," Bourque wrote in QST. Most entries were in Class A — club or non-club groups of three or more.

Of the nearly 1.1 million contacts, approximately 46% were made on phone, and 456,000 (42%) of contacts were made on CW. The remaining 138,000+ (12%) of the contacts were made on digital modes, such as FT8 and RTTY.

"This is a substantial increase compared to 2018, when total QSOs on the digital modes numbered just over 56,000," Bourque reported. "With the last 2018 release of WSJT-X (which now supports Field Day exchanges), many participants made use of FT8's ability to communicate when band conditions weren't being cooperative."

Top 10 scores ranged between W3AO's Class 14A entry from Maryland-DC, with 32,356 points, to W1NVT's 14,876-point Class 2A entry from Vermont.

Bourque said that 95% of the 3,113 entries received came through the Field Day web applet.

"Not only is ARRL Field Day an opportunity to sharpen operating skills in temporary and portable locations, it's also an occasion to showcase amateur radio to the local community, with clubs often setting up in publicly accessible locations and interacting with non-hams," Bourque wrote.

Soapbox comments for Field Day 2019 are available on the ARRL website. ARRL Field Day 2020 will take place June 27 – 28.

Source: <http://www.arrl.org/news/more-than-1-million-contacts-logged-during-arrl-field-day-2019>

In Other News (cont'd)

FCC Amending Amateur Radio RF Exposure Safety Rules

The FCC is amending its Part 97 Amateur Service rules relating to RF exposure safety. In a lengthy document in ET Docket 19-226 released on December 4 that addresses a broad range of RF safety issues, the FCC said current amateur radio RF exposure safety limits will remain unchanged, but that the amateur-specific exemption from having to conduct an RF exposure evaluation will be replaced by the FCC's general exemption criteria. Radio amateurs have always had to comply with RF exposure limits, but certain stations have been exempt from having to conduct evaluations based only upon power and frequency. The Commission indicated that by and large, if an RF source was "categorically excluded" from routine evaluation under the old rules, it will most likely still be exempt under the new rules, which are expected to take effect in the next couple of months.

"For applicants and licensees in the Amateur Radio Service, we substitute our general exemption criteria for the specific exemption from routine evaluation based on power alone in Section 97.13(c)(1) and specify the use of occupational/controlled limits for amateurs where appropriate," the FCC said.

"The sky is not falling here," ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, commented. "The major aspects of the rules will not impose major new burdens on the Amateur Radio Service. As in all regulatory matters, though, the devil may be in the details, so the ARRL technical staff, legal staff, and the experts on the ARRL RF Safety Committee are carefully evaluating this FCC document."

Under the revised Section 97.13(c)(1), "In lieu of evaluation with the general population/uncontrolled exposure limits, amateur licensees may evaluate their operation with respect to members of his or her immediate household using the occupational/controlled exposure limits in Section 1.1310, provided appropriate training and information has been accessed by the amateur licensee and members of his/her household," the amended rule says.

"RF exposure of other nearby persons who are not members of the amateur licensee's household must be evaluated with respect to the general population/uncontrolled exposure limits. Appropriate methodologies and guidance for evaluating Amateur Radio Service operation is described in the Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) Bulletin 65, Supplement B," the revised rule concludes.

The FCC said it was not persuaded by ARRL's argument in its comments that the routine evaluation exemption for amateur radio stations operating below a certain power threshold should be maintained. "Amateur radio licensees operate a variety of installations of different size, power, and frequency, which can be located in close proximity to people, giving rise to various RF exposure concerns," the FCC noted.

In a meeting with FCC OET Chief Julius Knapp and senior staff in early November, ARRL asked the FCC to make available on the internet a calculator to facilitate making the correct calculations the rules require. ARRL said that would be preferable to unofficial third-party calculators, the results from which might not be accorded the same degree of deference in local disputes. Several software programs were suggested as models.

The FCC did not single out amateur radio in drafting its latest RF exposure rules. The rules affect multiple services, and exemptions for many other services were also deleted as part of a broader policy driven by a proliferation of RF devices, some resulting in situations where gain antennas are sited much closer to people than was expected in 1996 when the rules were last revised.

Source: <http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-amending-amateur-radio-rf-exposure-safety-rules>



Beginner's Corner

Ragchewing

I subscribe to a ham blog from KB6NU. I always like to learn from other hams, whether they are new or have been on the air for decades. I received ham blog dated November 27th, 2019 from KB6NU that sparked something in me.

He quoted Wayne Green, W2NSD, "Rag-Chewing for Fun".

One measure of intelligence is how long it takes someone to get fed up with exchanging the same old crap over and over...how long it takes before they begin to start looking for people to actually talk with instead of broadcast to. Some old-timers have been exchanging signal and weather reports, and not much else, for decades.

"It's a pity that we've allowed our ham communications systems to evolve on a simplex basis, with one of us talking at a time, instead of duplex, as on the telephone. It's difficult enough to generate conversations when you meet someone new, that you can see and hear, but trying to find mutual conversational ground with someone you can't see and can't hear while you're talking is a real challenge.

"If you're into pioneering, you might consider developing a system which will allow us to at least talk to each other at the same time. We can do this via either time or frequency splitting. Eventually we'll have video along with voice, if you'll start working on it.

"In the meantime, let's get along as best we can with what we've got. I've been hamming for over 50 years now, and contacts haven't changed much. Oh, we're using sideband on the low bands and NBFM on the VHF bands, but our conversations haven't changed. We're still where we were 50 years ago as far as actually talking with each other is concerned. We're still in the dark ages when it comes to communicating."

It got me to thinking about some things we hams talk about. I have heard hams meeting on the air for some activity or other, and that's great. There are the Skywarn events that really prove the value of amateur radio. I participate in the "EmComm Ragchew Net" that takes place every Wednesday at 8 pm on the Stone Mountain 146.760 repeater. Lastly, there are the public service events that go on, such as the dog show and the various running events that take place in the Metro Atlanta area.

What about the rest of the conversations? I wonder if I am looking hard enough for something interesting to say. What other hobbies do I have besides radio? I am an amateur puppeteer. I also like rock and mineral collecting (thanks to Cub Scouting). I am thinking of taking up simple drawing, even though I can't draw a straight line with a ruler. I am going to start making my amateur radio conversations more interesting. I will look for topics to share with my ham radio friends. How about you? Will you join me?

Unfortunately, we are moving out of the area soon, so this will be my last column. It has been fun trying to come up with topics to share with new hams, and more experienced hams, as well. I have really enjoyed the many years I have spent with GARS. I would like to thank all my friends and Elmers who have helped me to learn and grow. 73 to all.

73 de *David Harden, KJ4CMY*

[On behalf of all GARS members, I would like to thank David for his efforts over the years in writing the Beginner's Corner articles for the GARzette. An archive of his articles is available at <http://www.gars.org>. —Ed.]



Gwinnett ARES Highlights

By Karen Whited, AB4NW

Meetings are held the 4th Tuesday at 7:30 pm at the EOC on Hi Hope Road. If you are interested in emergency communications, contact Hall Collier W4IGE at w4ige@arrl.net.



ARES TRAILER ON DISPLAY

.... at the Stone Mountain Hamfest Nov 2-3

Pictured: Mitch Matteau N0DIM, Larry Whited AB4NX



JOINT EXERCISE – November 16, 2019

Red Cross and North Fulton ARES

Using digital and voice on VHF and HF, the goal was to exercise messaging skills between the Red Cross HQ, five shelters in North Fulton County, and Sandy Springs EOC. Good capability was demonstrated with Winlink and FLDigi via simplex coverage. Gwinnett ARES members there in an observer role included Charlie Allport WS4TOT, Karen Whited AB4NW, and Larry Whited AB4NX. Lee Stone KT4LS of Gwinnett ARES was a direct assistant to Red Cross HQ.



RECAP OF RECENT MEETINGS

September Meeting – September 24

On September 19-21, a search was conducted in the Cohutta wilderness for a lost hiker. The Appalachian Trail Club responded, of which Hal Collier W4IGE is a member. On site, Edwin Whitworth KJ4KKB from GEMA put

Hal to work using a tactical non-amateur radio on a national interoperability channel via a repeater. He trained the search and rescue teams how to use the radios, which greatly facilitated communications. In the end, the hiker simply walked out of the woods and got a ride.

October Meeting – October 22

Part of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of the SET and our opportunities for improvement. The remainder of the time was allocated for a tour of the 911 center. Those members who had not previously seen it were offered a chance to view the center up close.



November Meeting – November 26

ARC NBEMS Flmsg Forms Usage with WinLink

Installation and Use of American Red Cross NBEMS Forms Using Flmsg with WinLink



Mark Bell N7GRB explained how to send Flmsg forms via Winlink. Flmsg forms are less text than Winlink forms and take less time to transmit and render. Red Cross staff can fill out forms via computer, save on a thumb drive, and pass to the radio operator for transmission.

Net Managers Corner

Monday Night 2 Meter “Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net”

GARS NEEDS MEMBERS TO SERVE AS NET CONTROL STATIONS!

GARS is a great Amateur Radio service club and we have the membership and awards to prove it. Our club is a very busy and active club and we use the Monday night net to get the information out to our members. Weekly participation is needed to make our net function well. There is only a small group of very dedicated people that make the net happen each week, and we need more members to volunteer to serve as Net Control Stations (NCS) on a rotating basis.

Out of almost 300 members, there are only **SEVEN** primary people who serve as NCS for the GARS net every Monday night. In no particular order, they are:

Don - KW4AL	Ray - N4GYN	Bill - KK4AUA
David - KA4KKF	Kevin - KK4WOG	Chuck - KK4TKJ
Russell - AB4QQ		

As GARS Net Manager (Chuck KK4TKJ), I really need 26 people to fill NCS positions. I do plan and post the schedule months in advance. Any conditions will be accommodated that you as a rotating NCS need to place on the scheduling of your duties. If your plans change, I can make adjustments for the schedule to work, and I will make those changes happen as soon as I am notified of a problem. As Net Manager, I also send out reminders each week to let the NCS scheduled know he or she is NCS for the next Monday night net. In short, serving as a rotating NCS is a small duty but a great contribution to the club.

The “Want, Swap, Sell Information Net” begins promptly at 19:30 every Monday night and runs about 45 minutes. As a scheduled NCS, you will request the assistance of a volunteer alternate NCS each time you have Net Control. Your simple duties will be to tune in to the GARS repeater, read the script, take a few notes and forward the information to me for record keeping.

Please lend a hand and contact me at KK4TKJ@arrl.net. Sign up to help support the effort that makes GARS the great club that it is.

73 and see you on the Nets!

Chuck McCord, KK4TKJ

GARS Net Manager



GARS Membership Page

New GARS Members in November

Gary Beckstedt (KN4VTA)
Tina Beckstedt
Zachary Evans (KN4ZFA)
Billy Fallin (KN4ZFB)
David Griscavage (KX4VN)
Roinell Lewis (KO4AHK)
Maria Lewis
Chris Neal (KN4ZRX)
Tom Tcimpidis (K6TGT)
Linda Tcimpidis (W6LWT)

New Members: 10

Total Members as of December 1, 2019
339

Join GARS members for our
weekly breakfast gathering at
7:30 AM most Saturdays

at

Golden Corral
2155 Riverside Parkway
Lawrenceville, GA 30043

[\(Directions\)](#)

The following members are
celebrating birthdays
in December:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!
From All of Us at GARS

David Adcock (KA4KKF)
Richard Atkin (KJ4ZTY)
Steve Back (WB2OGY)
Joe Biddle (AD4PZ)
Kelian Carreras
Jackson Chauvin (KN4WBJ)
Paul England (KA4PQL)
Barry Greene (KM4RVY)
Franklin Haynes (KV4SP)
David Johnston (KM4UVI)
Jerome Lofton (WD4CWG)
Mitch Matteau (N0DIM)
Chuck McCord (KK4TKJ)
Pam Meridy (WB1AKQ)
Jeff Pere (KN4NQQ)
Jack Perry (K6JLP)
Ralph Pickwick (KJ4CNC)
Grace Roberts
John Roeder (KK6UNS)
Jere Sandidge (K4FUM)
Norman Schklar (WA4ZXV)
David Slotter (W3DJS)
Susan Swiderski (AF4FO)
Thomas Whalen (KE4UXW)
Walter Wharton (KM4OND)
Amy Woodrick (KE4IKF)

GARS MEMBERSHIP

Your current GARS membership status is shown in the monthly newsletter e-mail
towards the bottom of the message.

To become a GARS member, or to renew your GARS membership, please visit our website—<http://www.gars.org>

To make changes to your GARS membership (moved, new e-mail address, new phone number, etc.),
please e-mail the Membership Committee - membership@gars.org

You can **renew or update** your Amateur Radio license information with the FCC at their website for free
<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home>

To update your ARRL information, please visit their website - <http://www.arrl.org>

Membership Chair: Karen Albritton, KI4HPP
Committee Members: Dave Bruse, W4DTR, Pam Meridy, WB1AKQ

EXTRA! EXTRA!

Repeater Status

6M	currently down
147.075	Operational in Snellville
147.255	Operational in Snellville
224.580	Operational in Grayson
442.100	Operational at Goshen Springs
442.325	Operational in Buford
444.525	Operational in Snellville

Link remote receivers being added



L&M Mobility

Robert (Mike) Smith
5191 La Paloma Dr.
Lilburn, GA 30047
Phone (404) 509-3104
Smithrm70@hotmail.com

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G A R S Volunteers

OFFICERS

John Davis, President	WB4QDX	
Sandy Jackson, Vice President	KJ4DRO	
Joe Biddle, Secretary	AD4PZ	
Pam Meridy, Treasurer	WB1AKQ	
Randy Collins, Program Manager	N4COR	

MANAGERS/COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Karen Albritton, Membership Chair	KI4HPP	
Dave Bruse, VE Team & Workshop Leader	W4DTR	
David Adcock, Webmaster and Field Day Chair	KA4KKF	
Ralph Pickwick, Apparel Manager and Education Chair	KJ4CNC	
Glen Wendt, TechFest Chair	W3WWT	
Bill Eggers, GARzette Editor	WB2RIS	
Eddie Foust, Repeater Chair	WD4JEM	
Mike Weathers, WAS / DXCC QSL Card Checker and Historian	ND4V	
Chuck McCord, Net Manager	KK4TKJ	
Mike Swiderski, Technical / RFI Advisor	K4HBI	
Joe Biddle, Winter Field Day Chair	AD4PZ	
Kyle Albritton, Multimedia Chair	W4KDA	
Don Stewart, Elmer Manager	KW4AL	
Dave Slotter, Georgia QSO Party Chair	W3DJS	

DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES

Kyle Albritton, W4KDA		Rick Cobb, N4XYY	
Mike Weathers, ND4V		Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN W4GR Trustee	

GARS MEETING AND WORKSHOP MINUTES

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
GENERAL Meeting Minutes
11/12/2019

President John Davis (WB4QDX) Opened the meeting at 7:00pm and Closed the meeting at 9:15pm
EAA Facility, 690 Hanger Rd. Lawrenceville, GA.

Introductions and Visitors: Visitors were recognized and full Introductions of the [69] attendees followed.

Treasurer: Pam Meridy (WB1AKQ) Gave the Club financial report.

Membership Report: Karen Albritton (KI4HPP) reported that Membership is at [340].

Programs: Randy Collins (N4COR) Announced Upcoming Programs:

- **December** – Holiday Party
- **January 2020** – Power Supplies
- **February 2020** – Finding power line noise
- **March 2020** – Ham Radio Awards (The Fun of the Hunt)
- **April 2020** – Favorite Ham Radio Web sites and Podcasts

GARS Workshop - **Dave (W4DTR)** outlined the next workshop sessions coming up:

- **November** – **Dave (W3DJS)** Raspberry PI for Ham Radio
- **December** – No Workshop
- **Suggestions for Workshop topics – Send to workshop@gars.org** or see **Dave (W4DTR)** or **Dave (W3DJS)**

GARS Education – **Ralph (KJ4CNC)** mentioned: HamCram scheduled for **November 16th and 23rd** at the Gwinnett Emergency Center. Sign up now.

TechFest - **Glen (W3WWT)** reminds us the date is **Saturday, January 18th, 2020**.

- The team is still investigating a location to hold Tech Fest, but prospects are promising.
- Sign up to volunteer at Tech Fest. Folks are always needed to put on this premier GARS Event.
- **Winter Field Day** – **Joe (AD4PZ)** informs us the upcoming WFD will be held on **January, 25-26 2020**. A location is actively being investigated to hold this 24-hour Event.

GA QSO Party – **Dave (W3DJS)** gave some brief notes for this event coming up April 11, 2020.

Holiday Party – is set for **Saturday December 7**. Sign up online for Fun, Food and great Entertainment.

Field Day 2019 – **David (KA4KKF)** informs us we took **First Place** our 8A category with **1,935 contacts (7,968 points)** and was posted in QST.

GARS Officers Elections – **John (WB4QDX)** informed us of the upcoming officers elections at the February meeting 2020. Nominations will be accepted at the January and February meetings.

B17 Special Event – **Paul (KA4YZR)** headed up the Special Event Station and told us they made numerous contacts in various modes. Forty-two contacts were made under the **EAA** call **W4LZU**, and a fun time was had by all.

Break:.....

Program – **Ray Bailey (N4GYN)**: Doing the Tail twister and Enjoying Remote Ham Radio

Submitted by: **Joe Biddle (AD4PZ)**, GARS Secretary

Workshop Meeting Minutes, 11/19/2019

Number in Attendance: 34

Workshop Topic: Raspberry Pi & Ham Radio (Part 1)
Workshop Presenter: **Dave Slotter, W3DJS**

Brief Summary:

In the attendance figure are nine attendees from other clubs. Ten attendees brought their Raspberry Pi's. Other equipment included full-sized monitors with Bluetooth keyboards, to miniature HDMI monitors and monitors mounted directly to the GPIO headers. AC power and USB battery packs were used.

The presentation revolved around Dave Slotter's Raspberry Pi Image v2. This image can run 50 to 100 Ham related programs including CHIRP, Fldigi, CubicSDR, Logging Programs, CW Aps, and WFJTX. PI connections included amateur radios and SDR Play. After the presentation Dave assisted those who brought their equipment.

A direct download of the image can be found at: <http://bit.ly/W3DJSRasPiv2ImgCompressed> You will need something that can decompress .bz files, such as 7-Zip or WinZip for Windows; and, something like balenaEtcher to load the image onto a microSD card".

Submitted Jointly by:

Earl Whatley AF4FG
Dave Slotter W3DJS

ARRL CONTESTING INFO

From ARRL Contest Calendar

> For more information click the links <

December 2019

6-8 [160 Meter](#)
14-15 [10 Meter](#)
15 [Rookie Roundup—CW](#)

January 2020

1 [Straight Key Night](#)
4 [Kid's Day](#)
4-5 [RTTY Roundup](#)
18-20 [January VHF Sweepstakes](#)

February 2020

10-14 [School Club Roundup](#)
15-16 [International DX – CW](#)

March 2020

7-8 [International DX– Phone](#)

April 2020

19 [Rookie Roundup – Phone](#)

(no ARRL contests in May)

June 2020

13-15 [June VHF](#)
20 [Kid's Day](#)
27-28 [Field Day](#)

July 2020

11-12 [IARU HF World Championship](#)

August 2020

1-2 [222 MHz and Up Distance Contest](#)
15-16 [10 GHz & Up – Round 1](#)
16 [Rookie Roundup – RTTY](#)

September 2020

12-13 [EME - 2.3 GHz & Up](#)
12-14 [September VHF](#)
19-20 [10 GHz & Up - Round 2](#)

October 2020

10-11 [EME - 50 to 1296 MHz](#)
19-23 [School Club Roundup](#)

November 2020

7-9 [Nov. Sweepstakes - CW](#)
21-23 [Nov. Sweepstakes - Phone](#)
28-29 [EME - 50 to 1296 MHz](#)

For more information:

<http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

HAMFEST CALENDAR

01/11/2020 | [Georgia State ARES Meeting, ARRL Operating Specialty Convention](#)

Location: Forsyth, GA
Type: ARRL Convention
Sponsor: Georgia ARES
Website: <https://gaares.org>



01/18/2020 | [TechFest](#)

Location: Lawrenceville, GA
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society
Website: <http://www.techfest.info/>

02/01/2020 | [CARS Hamfest and Computer Show, ARRL SC State Convention](#)

Location: North Charleston, SC
Type: ARRL Convention
Sponsor: Charleston Amateur Radio Society
Website: <https://wa4usn.org/>

02/07/2020 | [Orlando HamCation, ARRL Northern Florida Section Convention](#)

Location: Orlando, FL
Type: ARRL Convention
Sponsor: Orlando Amateur Radio Club
Website: <http://www.hamcation.com>

02/21/2020 | [Dalton Hamfest](#)

Location: Dalton , GA
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Dalton Amateur Radio Club
Website: <http://www.w4drc.com>

03/13/2020 | [Charlotte Hamfest, ARRL North Carolina Section Convention 2020](#)

Location: Concord, NC
Type: ARRL Convention
Sponsor: Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society
Website: <http://www.charlottehamfest.org>

For more information: <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar>
When searching by division, remember some states adjacent to GA are in different divisions:
Southeastern: GA, AL, FL Delta: TN Roanoke: NC, SC

GARS Events Calendar for 2019 & 2020

TechFest (www.techfest.info)	January 18, 2020
Winter Field Day	January 25&26, 2020
General HamCram	March 16&23
Dog Show Fundraiser	March 28 - 31
Georgia QSO Party	April 11&12, 2020
North metro area Fox Hunt	April
May Madness	May
Memorial Day Parade	May 25, 2020
ARC/KARC Hamfest	June 6, 2020
Field Day	June 27&28, 2020
Tech HamCrams	Jul 20&27, Nov 16&23
JOTA	October 19
Maker Faire (GARS Will Not Participate in 2019)	
Stone Mt. Hamfest	November 2&3
Holiday Party	December 7

January GARS Meeting: AM/FM/TV Digital Broadcasting and UHF Channel Packing Plan; Recent History and Future Trends, By Kevin Scott, K4GTR

GARS Recurring Calendar

- ♦ 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm (except December): Monthly Club Meeting
- ♦ 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm (except December): Monthly Workshop
- ♦ 2nd Sunday of the Month at 2 pm: [GARS Ham Exam Session](#)
Fire Station #24
2735 Mall of Georgia Blvd
Buford, GA 30519
- ♦ Every Monday at 7:30 pm: GARS Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater
- ♦ Every Monday at 8:30 pm: ARES Training on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater
- ♦ Most Saturdays at 7:30 am: GARS Weekly Breakfast
Golden Corral Restaurant
2155 Riverside Parkway,
Lawrenceville, GA 30043

GARS CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR DECEMBER 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net	3	4	5	6	7 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Holiday Party at EAA Hangar
8	9 GARS VE Team Testing Session Starts at 2:00 pm 7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net	10 No GARS Meeting in December	11	12	13	14 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive
15	16 7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net	17 No GARS Workshop in December	18	19	20	21 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive
22 Hanukkah Begins 	23 7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net	24	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i>	26	27	28 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive
29	30 Hanukkah Ends 	13	January 1 	January 2	January 3	January 4 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive

Metro Testing Sessions

GARS publishes Metro Atlanta VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in, unless otherwise noted. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions. Find additional sessions online at <http://www.arrl-ga.org>.

First Sunday, ODD Months

2 pm (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, & Nov)
VEC: WCARS
Braselton Public Utility Building
4986 Highway 53, Braselton, GA
Contact: Roger Gibson, WB4T
(770) 271-4210 or (770) 712-9560
w4rlg@bellsouth.net

First Sunday, EVEN Months

2 pm (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec)
VEC: WCARS
Hall County EOC
470 Crescent Dr. Gainesville, Ga.
Contact: Perry Roper, KO4RD
(770) 536-3056

Second Saturday

10:00 AM
Alpharetta North Park, Adult Activities Center
13450 Cogburn Rd, Alpharetta, GA 30004
Contact: Ian Kahn, KM4IK
E-mail: km4ik.ian@gmail.com

Third Saturday, ODD Months

VEC: ARRL
9:30 am (Appointments required, no walk-ins)
Stone Mountain Masonic Lodge
840 VFW Drive
Stone Mountain, GA 30083
Contact: Frank Haynes, KV4SP
Email: fhaynes@vatmom.net
(678) 467-3712

Second Sunday

VEC: W5YI
2 pm
Fire Station #24
Mall of Georgia Boulevard
Buford, GA 30519
Contact: Dave Bruse, W4DTR
E-mail: exams@gars.org

First Sunday, EVEN Months

VEC: WCARS and W5YI
2 pm @ Barrow Co. Emerg. Serv. Bldg
66 McElroy Street
Winder, GA 30680
Contact: Mike Wolcott, W4WYI
(404) 281-6581
E-mail: W4WYI@ARRL.net

(cont. next column)

Ham Exam Results

November Results

We had a successful exam session on Sunday, November 10. Seven applicants tested and five succeeded in upgrading or passing their Technician exam. We have two new Extras, one new General and two new Technicians.

Thanks to the following VE's who made the session possible.

- Dave Bruse, W4DTR (CVE)
- Donna McCord, KM4FMW
- Bob Hoffmann, K4CQO
- Don Bagby, KK4NJM (Co-CVE)
- Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN
- Russell Prevost, AB4QQ
- Richard Kitz, KM4SWL
- Frank Haynes, KV4SP
- Sid Weaver, N4NQ (Co-CVE)

73, *Chuck*, KK4TKJ (Co-CVE)

GARS VE Team Leaders

E-mail: exams@gars.org

GARS VE Website:

<http://gars.org/exams>



Fourth Tuesday

ARRL VEC
7 pm @ United Way Service Center
6279 Fairburn Rd., Douglasville
Contact: Jessie Clower, KB4WFK
(770) 942-6466

Fourth Sunday

2:30 pm Georgia Tech
VanLeer Elec. Building
Rm. W218, 777 Atlantic Dr.
For more information go to
www.w4aql.com and click on "Test Sessions"

Metro Club Meetings

First Tuesday

Kennehoochee ARC
Downtown Marietta
Fire Station #1, Training Room
112 Haynes Street
Marietta, Georgia 30060
Meeting begins at 7:00pm
Talk In 146.880(-)

First Thursday

Atlanta Radio Club
Georgia Red Cross HQ
1955 Monroe Dr., Atlanta
Meeting is at 7:30pm
Talk In -146.820(-)

N.E. Georgia ARC
Commerce Public Library
1344 South Broad Street, Commerce
Meeting is at 6:30pm
Talk In - 147.225(+), PL 123.0

Second Monday

Georgia Tech ARC
Room W218
Van Leer Electrical Engineering Bldg.
Georgia Tech Campus
Meeting at 7:00pm

Second Thursday

Alford Memorial Radio Club
Annistown Road Baptist Church
Annistown Rd & Spain Rd
Stone Mountain
Dinner at 6:00pm, Meeting at 7:30pm
Talk In - 146.760(-)

Second Saturday

North GA QRP Club
Board Room of The Shepherd Center
2020 Peachtree Rd, NW, Atlanta
at 10:00 AM

Third Tuesday

North Fulton Amateur Radio League
Alpharetta Recreation & Parks Dept
Alpharetta Adult Activity Center
13450 Cogburn Road
Alpharetta, GA 30004
meeting at 7:30pm
Talk In - 145.47(-)

For more information, go to:
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Ray WN5FB
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